

Public Affairs Office Weekly Report

June 10, 2020

Hot Issues:

ORD Disinfectant Research with MTA:

As early as this week, HQ ORD expects to issue a news release about research efforts to assess whether certain disinfectants are long-lasting and effective against COVID-19 on hard surfaces in transit systems. This is expected to generate press interest, and potentially interest from elected officials.

Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grants and Superfund Accomplishments Report:

PAO developed a virtual event to announce Brownfields RLF grants to three communities on June 10. Representatives, including Camden Mayor Moran, as well as reps from Niagara County and NYC are joining the media call.

Superfund Accomplishments – PAO is coordinating with SEMD on a virtual media event to announce the Superfund Accomplishments Report on June 11 at noon.

News Releases:

June 9: [EPA Urges Preparedness as Hurricane Season Begins; Advises on prevention, preparedness, and reporting requirements during Hazardous Weather Events](#)

June 4: [EPA Provides Additional Time for Public Review of Proposed Cleanup Plan to Address Groundwater Contamination at the Ringwood Mines/Landfill Superfund Site in New Jersey](#)

Upcoming News Releases:

- HQ ORD Release on MTA disinfectant research partnership
- Proposed Plan for Unimatic Superfund Site OU2
- Proposed Plan for Riverside Park Superfund Site
- Hormigas Site Deletion

Upcoming Community Meetings:

- Hoosick Falls CPWG meeting June 24
- Onondaga Lake CPWG meeting June 24 (TBC)
- Diamond Alkali/Passaic River CAG meeting, July 9
- Riverside Industrial Virtual Public Meeting-July TBD
- Unimatic Virtual Public Meeting –Summer 2020 TBD

Past Week:

Columbia Smelting

On June 4, members of Councilman Menchaca's staff hosted a Town Hall zoom call with EPA, NYC Parks and several community groups, in response to the groups' complaint of dust migrating via wind currents from Red Hook Park Ball Fields 5-8 (Columbia Smelting & Refining Works Site). Councilmember Menchaca did not attend, but 33 people were on, including District 38, Dan Wiley of Congresswoman Nydia Velazques's staff, Parks Capital, EPA, Pioneer Works cultural center, Red Hook Community Farms, Red Hook Initiative youth empowerment group, Shipparts and Good Shepherd Services. The community is concerned about dust from several sources and that the tarping and lack of air monitoring during the pause and off-hours may be insufficient. Parks answered most questions and SEMD offered availability to discuss and explain air monitoring requirements further. SEMD and PAO staff will be following up with members of the Red Hook Initiative to answer any further questions. While Parks indicated the reopening would likely be sometime this summer, Parks will be discussing plans with their contractor to remobilize as early as mid-June. PAO and SEMD will work on a community update to announce when work will resume. (POC: Natalie Loney)

Brick Township Landfill

On June 4th, PAO and SEMD staff participated on a call with a group of 12th graders from John P. Stevens High School about the history and redevelopment of Brick Township Landfill (BTL) Superfund site. The students were researching the site for an AP Environmental Science Project. Specific questions included, "why were the gallons of chemical drums disposed at the site in 1971?" "when would the EPA conduct a maintenance test of the cap and the groundwater?" and "how much electricity does the new solar array produce?" At the end of the meeting, the students requested a copy of the latest BTL inspection report, which was emailed to them along with weblinks to the BTL site's Documents and Data page. On June 8th, EPA was informed the students received an A+ on their project. (POC: Donette Samuel)

Arsenic Mine

The Record of Decision (ROD) for Arsenic Mine is in review. It is expected it will be signed this month. PAO and SEMD have reached out to residents to let them know that the ROD is imminent. The RPM is finishing up the RS so it can be added as an addendum to the ROD. There were approximately 30 comments received. They will be put into similar categories and responded to accordingly. (POC: Pat Seppi)

Asbestos Dump

PAO and SEMD have received inquiries about the Asbestos Dump site and the rezoning of the property. A few residents have expressed concerns about the town's plan to build 140 units near the site and PAO is coordinating with SEMD on responses. This is an NJDEP site and they oversee everything site related. SEMD and PAO have reached out to NJDEP for a contact but have heard nothing so far. The planning board asked for the draft FYR but because it can not yet be shared we sent them the 2015 FYR. The 2020 FYR should be finalized in the coming months. (POC: Pat Seppi)

Upcoming:

Onondaga Lake

DEC is in the process of scheduling the next Community Participation Working Group meeting for the Onondaga Lake Superfund Site. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 24, 2020 and DEC has requested EPA participation to discuss the Five-year review process for the Lake Bottom subsite. New

York state is the lead agency for all of the Onondaga Lake subsites, except Lower Ley Creek. Dredging of contaminated lake sediments (Lake Bottom Subsite) began in summer 2012 and was completed in November 2014. Approximately 2.2 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment was removed from the lake bottom and three shoreline areas. The dredging and related capping and habitat restoration work were performed by Honeywell International with oversight by the NYSDEC, the EPA, and the New York State Department of Health. Capping, which included the placement of more than 3 million cubic yards of material consisting primarily of sand, activated carbon, siderite, and stone, was completed in December 2016. Habitat restoration activities, including improving wetlands and planting native plants, shrubs, and trees in shoreline areas, were completed in late 2017.

Kentucky Avenue Wellfield

Koppers Pond is a 9.8- acre area that is part of the Kentucky Avenue Wellfield Superfund site located in the Chemung County, Village of Horseheads, NY. Contractors representing a group of responsible parties will be mobilizing to the site on June 10 to dewater the pond, install a geotextile membrane and a soil/sand cap over the area to create a landfill cap. This activity is anticipated to take 5-6 weeks to complete. PAO and SEMD are working on a community update fact sheet to notify the community and elected officials.(POC Mike Basile)

Regional Administrator’s Pending Action Items:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date Sent to RA’s Office</u>	<u>Required By/Due Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Call Congressman Kim re: Mr. Slappey	3/16/2020 and 4/20		Talking Points including COVID language provided via email
Kiryas Joel – RA to share letter sent to NYSDEC with Orange County attorney, Langdon Chapman	3/9/2020		Mary shared WD draft
Draft response letter to Mayor Chegwidden of Wharton, NJ	5/13 and 6/8	ASAP	Sabina resent draft via email on 6/8
Hudson River Road Key Contacts List	6/5		Awaiting RA feedback on who to solicit quotes from
Draft email to Congressman Norcross re: Sherwin Williams/Kirkwood Lake	6/3		Awaiting RA edits to email

